

R Street Institute  
Statement on House Bill 432  
House State and Local Government Committee  
Columbus, OH  
January 29, 2020

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and all members of the House State & Local Government Committee:

My name is Alan Smith. I'm a Senior Fellow and Midwest Director of the R Street Institute. R Street is an institution devoted to pragmatic free-market solutions to public policy challenges. I'm here to commend the Ohio House and the General Assembly for putting commonsense reforms that make a huge difference in the working lives of many transplanted residents at the forefront of the busy agenda forced on you as the policy-setting body of the Buckeye State.

I want to first thank you for being among the first states to recognize the need to allow spouses of active military personnel to work at their chosen licensed professions while living here temporarily on assignment.

I'm here to affirm Representative Powell's sponsor testimony about Arizona governor Ducey. One cannot be in the room with this proud state executive without absorbing some of his passion about the reasons that his state is growing so fast, and he is quick to identify the underlying reason as exactly what you seek to do with this legislation.

While all of the reformers are focused on permission and authority, there are numerous safeguards involving good standing, time on task and exemptions for particular kinds of licenses where the general rules do not easily apply.

Licensing activity by the state grew up complicated with many one-off situations, and the recent focus on this issue has been enormously productive for filling out the workplaces in states like Arizona and Pennsylvania that have started to piece together the big picture on employment issues. My own experience, working in this House on the legal staff, recalls a Fourth of July weekend where the legislature was threatened with extremely limited EMT service until they straightened out a situation where the EMT paramedics and the drivers of their emergency vehicles were licensed by different state agencies and the drivers' requirements that were scheduled to go into effect over the weekend were so strict that they practically had to have attended medical school.

For those of you who are animated by statistics and data-driven solutions, I would be happy to research any of your questions and provide specific answers based on numbers, but everybody in public policy knows that the time has come to rationalize a system that on its outer edge was licensing floral designers and fortunetellers. As sponsor Powell has indicated, people may suffer a diminution of skills in a lot of ways but crossing a state line probably isn't one of them.